

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
Division for the Blind

Prevention of Blindness Program

1957-1958 Annual Report

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1. Surgical Procedures

During the 1957-1958 fiscal year, 239 eye surgeries were performed for 224 patients. The difference in these numbers is due to the fact that nine patients required two surgeries each, while three patients required three surgeries each. The types of surgeries provided for these patients were as follows:

Cataract extration - 90% of total -	215
Discission 7)	
Pterygium 5)	
Retinal detachment 3)	
Glaucoma surgery 2)	10% of total 24
Corneal transplant 2)	
Miscellaneous 5)	
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Total	239

Seventy-eight additional patients were given presurgical examinations, (diagnostic eye examination, physical examination, or both) but did not go through to surgery primarily because of poor prognosis or poor health. In addition, 227 patients, who had requested eye care, were rejected by the State Ophthalmologist who did not consider eye surgery feasible for them.

During this fiscal year the State Ophthalmologist selected 779 potential candidates for eye care under the Prevention of Blindness program, 722 for eye surgery, 48 for glaucoma treatments and nine for refraction and glasses. Experience indicates that approximately one-third of those selected for eye surgery go through to surgery. Approximately two-thirds do not, due to such reasons as poor prognosis, poor health, fear, death or degree of blindness (surgery is usually not recommended if vision exceeds 20/80 in the better eye with a useful field).

2. Distribution of Surgery Cases by County was as follows:

County	Patients	Surgeries	Aid to Blind caseload January 1958
Alameda.	16	19	791
Alpine	0	0	9
Amador	0	0	9
Butte.	5	5	144
Calaveras.	1	1	16
Colusa	4	4	12
Contra Costa	2	2	203
Del Norte.	1	1	20
El Dorado.	1	1	18
Fresno	3	3	364
Glenn.	0	0	19
Humboldt	6	6	114
Imperial	4	4	109
Inyo	0	0	12
Kern	0	0	254
Kings.	4	4	73
Lake	1	1	31
Lassen	0	0	29
Los Angeles.	60	65	5,756
Madera	1	1	80
Marin.	2	2	40
Mariposa	0	0	7
Mendocino.	1	1	53
Merced	0	0	116
Modoc.	0	0	13
Mono	0	0	0
Monterey	2	2	125
Napa	3	3	67
Nevada	0	0	32
Orange	4	4	256
Placer	1	1	61
Plumas	0	0	8
Riverside.	12	12	345
Sacramento	12	12	354
San Benito	1	1	18
San Bernardino	19	21	552
San Diego.	13	14	557
San Francisco.	6	7	567
San Joaquin.	8	8	414
San Luis Obispo.	0	0	90
San Mateo.	1	1	116
Santa Barbara.	2	3	95
Santa Clara.	10	10	379
Santa Cruz	2	2	138
Shasta	0	0	64
Sierra	0	0	3
Siskiyou	0	0	31
Solano	2	3	73
Sonoma	2	2	174
Stanislaus	0	0	226
Sutter	1	1	47
Tehama	2	2	34
Trinity.	0	0	4
Tulare	2	2	247
Tuolumne	0	0	18
Ventura.	4	4	143
Yolo	0	0	54
Yuba	3	4	59
Totals	224	239	13,643

3. Distribution of Surgery Cases by Age and Sex was as follows:

A. Number of patients under 51 years	3
Between 51 and 60 years	24
Between 61 and 70 years	45
Between 71 and 80 years	102
Between 81 and 90 years	48
Over 90 years	2
Total	<u>224</u>

It will be noted that over two-thirds of the patients were 71 years of age or older.

B. Number of male patients	109
Number of female patients	115
Total	<u>224</u>

4. Distribution of Surgery Cases Between Panel and Private Ophthalmologists

The SDSW appoints a panel of surgeons which is rotated every two years. During this fiscal year this panel consisted of 34 surgeons located in 17 counties; 28 communities. Surgery cases are referred to members of the panel except under the following circumstances. If there is an existing bona fide physician-patient relationship between a patient and an ophthalmologist who is a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology and is, or has been, an authorized examiner for Aid to the Blind, the case is referred to the private physician if he is willing to accept it in accord with the policies of the Prevention of Blindness program.

During this fiscal year, 182 patients (about 81 percent) had surgery by panel surgeons. Forty-two patients (about 19 percent) had surgery by private surgeons. Eighteen of these private surgeons had previously served on the panel.

5. Results Obtained by Eye Surgery

Prior to eye surgery, 216 patients had vision of 20/200 or poorer in the operated eye (economic blindness); in eight cases vision in the operated eye exceeded 20/200.

Following eye surgery, vision was reported as follows:

<u>Visual Acuity</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>
20/200 or less	35 -
20/75 to 20/200	9
20/45 through 20/70	31
20/25 through 20/40	101
20/20 or better	43
Reports incomplete, delayed or not required	5
Total	<u>224</u>

Visual acuity of 20/200 or less represents economic blindness.
Visual acuity of 20/75 to 20/200 is known as "industrial blindness" and requires some special training.
Visual acuity of 20/45 through 20/70 offers no particular problem of either educational or vocational adjustment.
Visual acuity of 20/25 through 20/40 offers no problem as persons with this degree of vision can obtain licenses to drive.
Visual acuity of 20/20 is considered normal vision.

Although improvement in vision can be reported numerically, comments made by the patients themselves or by county workers who have observed them, are much more revealing. Some of these statements are as follows:

"Without your program, as an instrument in God's plan and purpose, I would still be living in semi-darkness and despair. Thank you for the very great part you had in granting me this new lease on life."

"He was working at his old job of yard work and was very happy with his glasses and being able to take care of himself again."

"He is again an active participating member of the community."

"This 73-year-old woman appears 15 years younger, is overwhelmed with the results, especially the satisfaction of seeing her grandchildren."

"This 86-year-old man is much happier as he can now remain in his own home and care for himself. Without surgery he was afraid that he would have to enter a rest home."

"She now has a sparkle and vim that were entirely absent a few months ago."

"He was singing as he washed the dishes."

Of the 224 patients who had eye surgery, 203 obtained improved vision (although 19 of these patients had post operative visual acuity of 20/200 or less, this was an improvement over presurgical vision). Sixteen patients (including 14 cataract patients) failed to obtain improved vision. (Reports were incomplete, delayed or not required in five cases.) Failure to obtain improved vision was due to the following reasons:

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Old chorditis	1
Retinal detachment	2
Glaucoma	5
Miopic retinal degeneration	1
Optic atrophy	1
Endophthalmitis	1
Bollous Keratitis	1
Hemorrhage	2
Uveitis	1
Diabetic retinitis	1
Total	<u>16</u>

On an overall basis, 92.9 percent of the patients obtained improved vision through eye surgery and 7.1 percent failed to obtain improvement. Considering cataract surgeries only, 93.5 percent of the patients obtained improved vision and 6.5 percent did not.

6. Source of Support Following Eye Surgery

According to the Social Adjustment Reports, submitted approximately six months following surgery, source of support was as follows:

<u>Source of Support</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>
Old Age Security	122
Aid to the Blind	28
Social Security	19
General Relief	7
Aid to Totally Disabled	2
Aid to Needy Children	1
Family	11
Self-Support	10
Miscellaneous (Savings, property, etc.)	5
Reports incomplete, delayed or nor required	<u>19</u>
Total	224

7. Nonsurgical Services

Glasses are provided for nonsurgical cases only under the following circumstances. The patient is eligible for Aid to the Blind insofar as vision is concerned, without glasses and is ineligible for Aid to the Blind with proper glasses, which are not available to the patient through other sources. During this fiscal year, refraction and glasses were provided for six nonsurgical cases.

Glaucoma treatments are provided if they are not otherwise available to the patient. During this fiscal year ~~48~~ 48 persons were found to require this type of treatment. Since this is a serious disease which frequently progresses without pain or other symptoms, these persons were advised of the need for treatment and the counties were asked to assist them in making arrangements for care. Glaucoma treatments were provided for 20 patients under the Prevention of Blindness program.

8. Monthly Caseload

The active monthly caseload varied from 401 to 450 during this fiscal year, the monthly average being 422.

9. Expenditure of Funds

The total amount budgeted for the Prevention of Blindness program for the 1957-1958 fiscal year was \$119,400. Since funds must be reserved to cover possible emergencies and since some surgeries scheduled for the end of the fiscal year had to be postponed or canceled, \$9,004.36 of the amount budgeted was unspent as of November 30, 1958. \$110,395.64 has been spent or is encumbered to meet authorized expenditures, as follows:

Amount spent on 239 surgery cases	\$105,631.23
Amount spent on nonsurgical cases and cases which did not go through to surgery	<u>4,764.41</u>
	\$110,395.64

